

**PARENTAL ACCEPTANCE-REJECTION, PARENTAL CONTROL AND  
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN YOUTH: AN ANALYTIC STUDY OF  
HYDERABAD AND KARACHI**

*Farhat Jokhio  
Dr Nagina Parveen Soomro  
Dr Ghazala Shoukat*

**ABSTRACT**

*The present study was conducted to examine the relationship between parental –acceptance-rejection, parental control and Juvenile delinquency. The sample was comprised of juvenile delinquents (n=100), and normal adolescents (n=100). A sample of juvenile delinquents was randomly selected from Juvenile Jail, Central Jail Hyderabad and Central Jail Karachi. PARQ/Control Questionnaire (Imam, 1999) and Self-reported Delinquency Scale (Naqvi, 2007) were administered on the sample. Participants of the study were interviewed as well as scales were administered individually and questions were read out for delinquents. Normal adolescents filled questionnaires by themselves. It was hypothesized that there would be significant differences between the scores of Juvenile delinquents and normal adolescents on parental acceptance-rejection questionnaire (PARQ/Control scale); juvenile delinquents would score high on Self –reported Delinquency scale as compared to normal adolescents. Pearson correlation and t-test were computed to test the hypotheses. Results of the study found significant mean differences between the scores of delinquents and normal adolescents on all sub-scales of parental acceptance-rejection questionnaire (PARQ/C), indicating that Juvenile delinquents have perceived their both parents( Mother, Father), as more rejecting, neglecting and aggressive as compared to normal adolescents. Findings revealed strong relationship between permissive parenting style or less parental control with the delinquency. Results of the present research investigation have shown consistency with universal claims of parental acceptance- rejection theory and its relationship with the delinquency and behaviour problems among adolescents.*

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**Keywords:** Parental acceptance –rejection, Parental control, Juvenile Delinquency.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Increasing ratio of adolescents’ disruptive and delinquent behaviour has been of great interest for social scientists in general and for

psychologists in particular. Psychologists and criminologist have always been keen in understanding adolescents' deviant and criminal behaviour (Bernier, 1997; Fonseca & Yule, 1995; Hirschi, 1983; Loney & Lima, 2003; Raffail & Haque, 1999; Anita, S. 2011; Jeff, A. A. 2006; Brauer, J.R. 2011; Fletcher, *et.al.*, 2004).

Parenting has been found to have significant influence on adolescent's decisions to conform or deviate from norms. Parental attachment, supervision or coercion has been found to inhibit or encourage delinquent behaviour (Angew, Rebellon, & Thaxon 2000; Hirschi, 1969; Colvin & Cullen 2004; Unnever, Cullen, & Agnew 2006; Wong 2005). Research on different has revealed a significant relationship between parental acceptance–rejection and delinquency (Rohner & Britner 2002). Rejection of the child and inadequate involvement in child's activities cause delinquency among adolescents (Okorodudu & Okorodudu, 2003).

Parental rejection has been found a strong predictor of delinquency and conduct problems (Baumrind, 1991; Bowlby 1997; Rohner *et.al.*, 2009; Rohner, Khaleque, 2002; Rohner, 2001; Rohner, 2005). For children the most important relationship is one with their parents and researches suggest parental warmth and rejection (Rohner, 2004) as a major predictor of child's well-being and development of pathological problems in adulthood (Keisha, 2004; Bowlby, 1997) and in the development of desirable characteristics of adolescents (Maccoby & Martin, 1983). Several studies (Hassan, 1979; Raffail & Haque, 1999) have also indicated that parental indifferent style lead to psychopathology, as well as father's strict treatment and parental rejection give rise to emotional instability, negative world view and psychological maladjustment (Hassan & Munaf, 2012).

Psychologists categorize child-rearing styles on the basis of two factors: parental warmth and parental control. Warmth dimension of parenting much focused in the Ronald. P. Rohner's theory of parenting (Rohner, 1975-2005) has provided conceptualization of present research. According to Rohner one end of warmth dimension is marked by parental acceptance while the other is marked by rejection. Warmth and affection can be shown physically (hugging, kissing, caressing comforting etc.) or verbally (praising, complementing, saying nice things to or about child), accepting parents show their keen interest in children's well-being (Rohner, 1975; Rohner, 2000).

Parents if do not show warmth, it indicates parental less warmth or rejection according to parental acceptance-rejection theory (Rohner,

1990). This in turn refers to the absence of warmth and presence of variety of physically and psychologically hurtful behaviour and actions. Parental acceptance-rejection and control (Rohner, 1990) have also been found strong predictors of various socio-psychological problems of adolescents including, drug abuse, delinquency and conduct disorder (Rohner, 2005; Rohner, 1986).

The present research investigation was attempted to estimate the relationship of perceived parental acceptance-rejection and involvement of adolescents in delinquent activities.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

Following were the objectives of the present study:

- a) to examine the relationship of parental acceptance-rejection and parental control with juvenile delinquency.
- b) to find out the differences in the scores of both study groups on parental acceptance –rejection and control questionnaire.

#### **HYPOTHESIS**

1. There would be significant mean differences in the scores of juvenile delinquents and normal adolescents on father referent parental acceptance-rejection questionnaire.
2. There would be significant mean differences in the scores of juvenile delinquents and normal adolescents on mother referent parental acceptance-rejection questionnaire.
3. Juvenile delinquents would score less on control sub-scale of parental acceptance-rejection control questionnaire as compared to normal adolescents.
4. The scores of the delinquents on self-reported delinquency scale and on control sub-scale of parental acceptance-rejection control questionnaire would be correlated positively.

#### **METHOD**

**Participants:** Participants of the study comprised of juvenile delinquents (n= 100) and normal adolescents (n=100). Age of participants ranges from 13 to 18 years. Mean age of the participants was (M=17.02, SD=1.72) for normal adolescents and for delinquents it was (Mean =16.57, SD=1.47) respectively. A sample of Juvenile delinquents was randomly selected from Juvenile Jail, Central Jail Hyderabad and Central Jail Karachi. Participants belonged to different social classes, 38% belonged to middle socio-economic class, 55 % belonged to lower socio-economic class and 02% of the delinquents belonged to upper socio-

economic class. Among the sample of normal adolescents 56% belonged to middle socio-economic class, 41% belonged to lower class and 03% belonged to upper socio-economic class. Sample of the normal adolescents was randomly selected from different colleges of Hyderabad. Both groups were matched on the variables of age, sex, socio-economic class and both parents alive.

**Instruments:** Following instruments were used in the study:

(a) **Parental Acceptance-Rejection Control Questionnaire:** Parental acceptance-rejection control questionnaire (PARQ/C) was developed by Rohner (1975). It has two versions which measure the perception of participant about their mother and father. Both versions were used in the present study. In the present study Urdu (Imam, F. 1999) and Sindhi (Shah, 2009) adapted version of parental acceptance/rejection control questionnaire were used. These were administered according to the language of the participants which was easily understood by them. PAR/C questionnaire measures the way adolescents perceived their mother's and father's treatment of themselves during childhood years. PAR/C questionnaire has five sub-scales to measure: Parental warmth and affection (20 items), parental hostility and aggression (15 items), Parental neglect and indifference (15 items), and parental rejection (10 items). To assess parental control Restorative parental attitude, Parental control Scale (13 items), was administered. Higher score on Strict/restrictive scale indicates higher restrictive control perceived by parents. High score on warmth/acceptance questionnaire indicate less parental warmth and more rejection. PAR/C questionnaire items are scores on a 4 –point Likert-like scale, 'Almost Always True' assigned a score of 4, and 'Almost Never True' assigned a score of 1. Some of the items are scored in the opposite direction, to refute response set bias.

**Self-reported Delinquency Scale:** Self-reported Delinquency scale (Naqvi, I., 2007) was used for the measurement of delinquency. Alpha reliability of SRDS is 0.94 (Naqvi, I., 2007) .Sindhi translation of the SRDS was accomplished by the first author using back translation technique. Self- reported delinquency consists on 27 items measuring 8 dimensions. They are all positively stated statements. Items are scored on a 5-point scale. Response category were 'Never' =0, 'one time' =2, '5-10 times' =3 and '10 or more times' =4. The score on this scale ranges from 0-160. The higher score obtained on the scale represents more delinquent tendencies. Test-retest reliability coefficient came out 0.81 shows reliable status of the scale.

**Procedure:** Firstly permission from the higher authorities of Prison was taken and purpose of research explained to them. Then informed consent was taken from those who want to participate in the study. Participants of the study were interviewed in order to develop rapport with them. After then instruments were administered. Scales were administered individually and questions were read out for delinquents. In case of normal adolescents, scales were administered in their respective colleges, and they filled in questionnaires by themselves.

## RESULTS

**TABLE- 1**  
**MEAN, STANDARD DEVIATION AND T- VALUES FOR PARQ/C SCORES**  
**OF (MOTHER, REFERENT) DELINQUENTS AND NORMAL**  
**ADOLESCENTS**

PARQ/C	Delinquents (n=100)		Normal Adolescents (n=100)		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
Less Warmth / affection	35.58	3.47	29.41	6.70	2.037	<0.05
Hostility / aggression	34.82	3.080	26.64	6.0877	3.035	<0.05
Neglect / indifference	34.28	5.981	27.6	4.729	4.357	<0.05
Undifferentiated / rejection	23.99	5.105	19.31	4.986	2.325	<0.05
Permissiveness / Restrictiveness	31.76	4.664	35.61	5.676	3.84	<0.05
Total PARQ	127.46	23.28	101.25	15.769	1.110	

df=198, p<.05

This table shows only scores of Mother's, Referent delinquents and normal adolescents.

**Table-1:** Results of the present study have shown significant mean differences between the scores of delinquents and normal adolescents on all sub-scales of PARQ/C (Mother, referent). Delinquents perceived more hostility/aggression, neglect /indifference, undifferentiated/ rejection during their childhood which is apparent from significant t – values on hostility/aggression (t=3.035), neglect/indifference (t=4.357), undifferentiated /rejection (t= 2.325), subscales of mother referent PAR/C scale. Delinquents perceived less warmth (t=2.037) as compared to normal adolescents. Mean scores of delinquents (M=31.76, SD=4.664) and normal adolescents on Control sub-scale of PARQ/C have shown significant differences (t=3.84), indicating that delinquents perceived less maternal control than the normal participants.

**TABLE- 2**  
**MEAN, STANDARD DEVIATION, AND T- VALUES FOR PARQ/C SCORES**  
**OF (FATHER, REFERENT) DELINQUENTS AND NORMAL**  
**ADOLESCENTS;**

PARQ/C	Delinquents (n=100)		Normal Adolescents (n=100)		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
Less Warmth / affection	39.69	9.952	31.18	7.459	4.754	<0.05
Hostility/ aggression	38.53	8.006	25.59	5.185	2.257	<0.05
Neglect / indifference	35.42	5.915	27.49	5.211	8.642	<0.05
Undifferentiated / rejection	26.05	4.526	18.93	5.301	3.046	<0.05
Permissiveness/ Restrictiveness	31.22	5.338	39.94	5.171	8.904	<0.05
Total PARQ	135.5	25.39	103.21	18.83	3.045	<0.05

df=198, p <.05

This table shows only scores of Father's, Referent delinquents and normal adolescents.

**Table-2:** Findings of the present study showed significant mean differences between the scores of both study groups i.e. delinquents and normal adolescents on all sub-scales of father referent PARQ/C. Delinquents perceived more paternal hostility/aggression, neglect /indifference, undifferentiated/ rejection during their childhood years which is clear from highly significant t-values on hostility/ aggression (t=2.257), neglect/ indifference (t=8.642), undifferentiated /rejection (3.046), subscales of father referent scale. The delinquents also perceived less warmth (t= 4.754). Mean scores of delinquents (M=31.76, SD=4.664), on Control sub-scale of PARQ/C differed significantly with mean scores of normal adolescents (M=35.61, SD= 5.67), with significant t-value (t=8.904). According to results normal adolescents feel more paternal control as compared to the delinquents.

**TABLE-3**  
**MEAN, STANDARD DEVIATION, AND T- VALUES FOR SRDS SCORES**  
**OF DELINQUENTS AND NORMAL ADOLESCENTS**

SRDS scores	Delinquents (n=100)		Normal adolescents (n=100)		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
	43.58	9.125	13.27	12.33	5.321	<0.05

df=198

**Table-3:** The results of delinquents and normal adolescents in terms of their SRDS scores have shown significant differences ( $t=5.321$ ). Delinquent scored higher on the delinquency scale as compared to normal participants.

**TABLE-4**  
**CORRELATIONS BETWEEN SCORES OF DELINQUENTS' ON CONTROL SUB-SCALE OF PAR/C (MOTHER/FATHER) REFERENT AND TOTAL SRDS SCORES OF DELINQUENTS**

	Mother			p	Father			p
	M	SD	r		M	SD	r	
Control sub-scale of PARQ/C scores	31.76	4.664	0.138	<0.05	31.22	5.333	-0.096	>0.05
SRDS scores	43.58	9.125			43.58	9.125		

df=198

**Table-4:** Correlation coefficient (Pearson product –moment) was computed to examine the relationship of control parenting (permissiveness/restrictiveness) with delinquency. Results have shown positive relationship between delinquency and parental control for father referent ( $r=-0.096$ ), and for mother referent ( $r=0.138$ ).

## DISCUSSION

Findings of the study are supporting the postulates of the parental acceptance rejection theory, which states that children's perception of parental warmth is directly linked with their psychological adjustment, and healthy behaviours (Rohner, 2004; Rohner, *et.al.*, 2011). Overall findings of the present research have found perceived rejection and less control as major causal factors behind delinquent behaviour.

Results of the present study (Table 01 & 02) had indicated the significant differences in the perceived parenting warmth by delinquents and non-delinquents. Delinquents perceived more parental rejection and aggression, less parental control as compared to normal participants. These findings are consistent with earlier researches (Rafail, & Haque, 1999; Lipsey & Derzone, 1998; McCord, 1979; McCord, 1997; Macoby & Martin, 1983; Steinberg, *et.al.*, 1994).

The results of Delinquents and normal adolescents in terms of their SRDS reveal that both of the groups have differed significantly on SRDS with a t- value of (5.321), showing that normal participants do not indulge into delinquent activities as compared to delinquents.

On control sub-scale of PARQ/C (mother, father) referent and total SRDS scores it was found that delinquents have shown negative

significant relationship between their scores on Control-sub scale of PARQ/Control and their SRDS scores for both maternal and paternal control (Table-4). It shows that paternal less control is more significantly related with delinquency scores ( $r=-0.096$ ). These results are consistent with the previous studies ((Macoby & Martin 1983; Steinberg *et.al.*, 2006; Steinberg *et.al.*, 1994; Rafail & Haque, 1999; Rohner, & Britner, 2002; Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990; Moffitt; 1993; Barnes & Farrell, 1992; Juang & Silberstein, 1999).

Parental control (Nye, 1958; Farrington, 2002) beside parental acceptance-rejection is an important factor and directly related with the juvenile delinquency. Parental supervision is p away the children from anti-social activities. The role of father is as important as of mother. In our society generally all responsibility of child rearing has placed on the mother but active participation in disciplining and supervision of children father plays key role. The healthy and strong father-child relationship helps them to take right decisions and be independent. Mother also have to be more vigilant about their children besides giving warmth and love they must observe the daily routines, activities and peer group of their children. Because seeds of delinquency sow at the early ages and parental supervision is important for supervision.

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